

Message

From: CN=Phil North/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US [CN=Phil North/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US]
Sent: 11/26/2012 9:56:05 PM
To: "Jim Kuipers" [jkuipers@kuipersassoc.com]
Subject: RE: Steven Vick
Attachments: north.phil@epa.gov

Jim,

Thanks for asking. I know scepticism exists in the industry concerning tailings dams, but little of it seems to be published in the industry or scientific literature. Jack Caldwell is a critic, as are you and Steven Vick. I cited Vick's book on subjective probability (which you suggested that I read) in the Bristol Bay assessment. It would be helpful to get more citable information discussing the risks associated with dams.

Thanks for your help.

Phil

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"To protect your rivers, protect your mountains."

From: "Jim Kuipers" <jkuipers@kuipersassoc.com>
To: Phil North/R10/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 11/25/2012 11:46 AM
Subject: RE: Steven Vick

Phil – I've been trying to get caught up since a big deliverable to EPA HQ folks on 108b. I sent a message to Steve today and hopefully he will respond soon.

What Steve has always tried to get folks to understand is that accidents aren't entirely preventable, particularly when you look at things from a statistical probability standpoint (even with the best of practice and intent, failures can still happen because we can't predict nor build for all potential events). One way to prevent adverse consequences is simply to not build high risk structures (e.g. tailings dams) in places where the consequences of a total failure cannot be tolerated (e.g. Bristol Bay).

I have huge respect for him – he's one of the very few industry stalwarts who calls a spade a spade and doesn't accept industry's usual BS excuses.

Jim K

From: North.Phil@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:North.Phil@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2012 4:58 PM
To: jkuipers@kuipersassoc.com
Subject: Steven Vick

Hi Jim,

Were you able to find the paper or an contact information for Steven Vick?

Thanks
Phil

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